

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----085384 122010Z /62

O R 121811Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8505
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 08840

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) GW WB
SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE FRG AND BERLIN:
POSSIBLE VISIT TO WIESBADEN

REFS: (A) BONN 8269 DTG 031816Z MAY 78 NOTAL
(B) BONN 7634 DTG 231710Z APR 78 NOTAL
(C) BONN 7216 DTG 181759Z APR 78 NOTAL
(D) BONN 7215 DTG 181742Z APR 78 NOTAL
(E) USCINCEUR 6364 DTG 181705Z APR 78 NOTAL

1. PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL
VISIT ASSUMES THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL VISIT A MAJOR
CITY IN THE FRG AND ALSO A MILITARY INSTALLATION. THE
CHANCELLOR, WHO AS HOST WILL ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT ON
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THIS PORTION OF THE VISIT, HAS PROPOSED THAT THE MAJOR
CITY BE IN EITHER BAVARIA OR HESSE. (BOTH STATES ARE
HAVING ELECTIONS, CRUCIAL FOR THE SPD, IN THE FALL.) THE
CHANCELLOR HAS ALSO NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF
THE MILITARY INSTALLATION CHOSEN PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY
TO VISIT BOTH AMERICAN AND GERMAN FORCES, IN ORDER
TO DEMONSTRATE PARTNERSHIP IN THE VITAL DEFENSE AREA.

2. IN FORMULATING SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS PORTION OF THE VISIT, WHICH AS TENTATIVELY PLANNED WOULD TAKE PLACE ON THE MORNING OF BILATERAL DAY TWO (JULY 15), THE EMBASSY IN CONSULATION WITH EUCOM HAS SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY SITES MEETING THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

-- LOCATION IN BAVARIA OR HESSE.

-- AN AIRPORT LARGE ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE AIR FORCE ONE, BACK-UP PLANE, AND PRESS PLANES.

-- A MILITARY INSTALLATION CLOSE ENOUGH FOR VISITING BY MOTORCADE OR HELICOPTER WHERE BOTH US AND FRG TROOPS CAN BE PRESENT.

3. SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED:

-- WURZBURG. THIS WAS THE ORIGINAL GERMAN SUGGESTION. WHILE IT IS AN ATTRACTIVE CITY IN BAVARIA AND THERE ARE GOOD POSSIBILITIES FOR VISITS TO NEARBY MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, THE DISTANCES FROM A LARGE AIRPORT IS TOO GREAT AND WE THUS RECOMMEND AGAINST FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

-- NUREMBERG/GRAFENWOEHR. THIS POSSIBILITY WAS
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DISCUSSED IN REFTELS (C), (D), AND (E). THERE ARE SEVERAL ADVANTAGES. THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED BY THE PEOPLE OF NUREMBERG, WHERE THE PRESIDENT

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, ROBINSON.

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O R 121811Z MAY 78
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CINC USAF RAMSTEIN

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WOULD BE GREETED BY THE LORD MAYOR, ANDREAS URSCHLECHTER, AN SPD OFFICIAL. (IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE CSU MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF BAVARIA, DR. ALFONS GOPPEL, WOULD ALSO WISH TO BE ON HAND FOR ANY PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN NUREMBERG.) GRAFENWOEHR IS A LARGE AND WELL-KNOWN TRAINING AREA USED BY BOTH US AND GERMAN FORCES, AND THERE COULD BE LIVE TRAINING, TO INCLUDE AIR FORCE OVERFLIGHT ACTIVITY IF DESIRED.

THE NUREMBERG/GRAFENWOEHR COMBINATION HAS, HOWEVER, TWO DISADVANTAGES. THE DISTANCES ARE SUCH THAT MOVEMENT BY HELICOPTER WOULD BE REQUIRED, THUS COMPLICATING PRESS MOVEMENTS AND ALSO RULING OUT AN INCLEMENT WEATHER BACK-UP PLAN. ALSO, AS NOTED IN REF (C), THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE AMERICAN PRESS, IN DESCRIBING THE NUREMBERG STOP, MIGHT HIGHLIGHT RECOLLECTIONS OF NUREMBERG'S ROLE DURING THE HITLER ERA -- MEMORIES OF WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN REFRESHED IN AMERICAN MINDS AS A RESULT OF THE

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"HOLOCAUST" SERIES. WASHINGTON IS IN A BETTER POSITION THAN THE EMBASSY TO ASSESS WHETHER SUCH PRESS REPORTING WOULD NEUTRALIZE FOR AMERICAN AUDIENCES WHAT OTHERWISE MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO BE FAVORABLE COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

-- EUCOM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTHER POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS WHICH MIGHT MEET THE CRITERIA IN PARAGRAPH TWO ABOVE WERE SPELLED OUT IN REFTEL (A). THAT TELEGRAM ALSO MENTIONED THAT OPTIONS IN THE NORTHAG AREA WERE BEING SOUGHT, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY BOTH USAF AND USAREUR HAVE RECOMMENDED AGAINST FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF A VISIT TO THE NORTHAG AREA.

4. AFTER FULL CONSIDERATION OF THE VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES IN REFTEL (A), THE EMBASSY NOW RECOMMENDS A PROGRAM WHICH COMBINES ELEMENTS FROM SEVERAL OF THE OPTIONS PROPOSED BY EUCOM. THIS PROGRAM WOULD INCLUDE A LANDING AT RHEIN MAIN AIR BASE, WHERE USAF AND IF DESIRED GERMAN AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT COULD BE DISPLAYED AND THE PRESIDENT COULD GREET THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY RESIDING IN THE RHEIN MAIN BASE HOUSING AREA; A PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN DOWNTOWN WIESBADEN; AND A VISIT TO BRIGADE 76, WHERE GERMAN ARMY UNITS COULD ALSO BE PRESENT. A MORE DETAILED SCENARIO FOR SUCH A PROGRAM IS SET OUT IN PARA 7 BELOW.

5. IN THE EMBASSY VIEW, A RHEIN MAIN/WIESBADEN/BRIGADE 76 PROGRAM WOULD HAVE SEVERAL ADVANTAGES OVER NUREMBERG/GRAFENWOEHR. WIESBADEN IS THE CAPITAL OF HESSE, WHICH HAS AN SPD GOVERNMENT. THE PRESIDENT WOULD PRESUMABLY BE WELCOMED TO THE CITY BY LORD MAYOR RUDI SCHMITT (SPD) AND POSSIBLY BY HESSE MINISTER-PRESIDENT
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HOLGER BOERNER (ALSO SPD). WHILE THERE WOULD BE TWO FAIRLY LONG MOTORCADES, THE FACT THAT SURFACE TRANSPORTATION IS FEASIBLE FOR ALL MOVEMENTS WOULD MINIMIZE PROBLEMS OF HANDLING THE PRESS CORPS AND WOULD OBVIATE THE NEED FOR LAST MINUTE CHANGES BECAUSE OF BAD WEATHER. A FEW MINUTES COULD BE SHAVED OFF THE TIME FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MOVEMENTS BY USE OF HELICOPTERS OR FIXED WING AIRCRAFT SMALLER THAN AIR FORCE ONE, BUT THE SAVINGS WOULD BE MINIMAL AND PRESS POOLS WOULD BE REQUIRED. WE HAVE ALSO NOT RECOMMENDED USE OF HELICOPTERS BECAUSE WE ESTIMATE THAT A MINIMUM OF EIGHT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY, THE CHANCELLOR AND HIS PARTY AND MINIMUM PRESS POOLS, AND CONGESTION WOULD BE PARTICULARLY BAD IN DOWNTOWN WIESBADEN.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A VISIT TO NUREMBERG IS AGREEABLE TO THE CHANCELLOR, AND IN FACT THERE IS ALREADY INFORMATION IN THE PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL GO TO NUREMBERG. OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT WIESBADEN WOULD BE EQUALLY ACCEPTABLE IN MEETING ALL THE CHANCELLOR'S CRITERIA FOR THE OUT-OF-BONN VISIT, AND INFORMAL SOUNDINGS IN THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE INDICATE THAT THE CHANCELLOR WOULD IN ALL LIKELIHOOD AGREE TO WIESBADEN. WE HAVE OF COURSE STRESSED THAT OUR CONSIDERATION OF WIESBADEN AS AN ALTERNATIVE IS VERY TENTATIVE, PENDING WASHINGTON'S VIEWS.

7. FOLLOWING FOR PLANNING PURPOSES IS A FULLER SCENARIO

FOR THE PROPOSED RHEIN MAIN/WIESBADEN PORTION OF THE
VISIT:

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, ROBINSON.

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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EXDIS

BILATERAL DAY TWO -- JULY 15

0730 DEPART RESIDENCE BY MOTORCADE.

0800 DEPART BONN/COLOGNE AIRPORT (AIR FORCE ONE),
ACCOMPANIED BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT.

0830 ARRIVE RHEIN MAIN AIR BASE

-- OBSERVE STATIC DISPLAY OF USAF EQUIPMENT

AND TALK WITH USAF PERSONNEL.

GERMAN AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL
MAY ALSO BE INCLUDED.

(OPEN COVERAGE)

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0900 DEPART RHEIN MAIN AIR BASE BY MOTORCADE FOR
WIESBADEN.

NOTE: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT MIGHT ACCOMPANY THE
PRESIDENT OR MIGHT GO IN ADVANCE BY
SEPARATE MOTORCADE WHILE THE PRESIDENT
IS GREETING THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

0930 ARRIVE DOWNTOWN WIESBADEN.

NOTE: THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE GREETED BY THE
LORD MAYOR OF WIESBADEN AND POSSIBLY BY
THE MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF HESSE.
DETAILED SUGGESTIONS FOR A WIESBADEN
PROGRAM, TO INCLUDE A PUBLIC APPEARANCE
AND BRIEF REMARKS, POSSIBLY AT A GOLDEN
BOOK CEREMONY, WILL FOLLOW.

(OPEN COVERAGE)

1015 DEPART WIESBADEN VIA MOTORCADE FOR WIESBADEN
AIR BASE (ACCOMPANIED BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT).

1030 ARRIVE WIESBADEN AIR BASE (BRIGADE 76)

-- VIEW US AND FRG GROUND FORCE EQUIPMENT,
TALK WITH PERSONNEL, OBSERVE TRAINING ON
SUB-CALIBER AND DRY-FIRE TRAINING FACILITIES.

(OPEN COVERAGE)

1130 LUNCH WITH TROOPS.

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(PHOTO-TV COVERAGE AT BEGINNING, THEN AIR
FORCE ONE POOL COVERAGE. PRESS EXCEPT FOR AF-1

POOL WOULD LEAVE AT THIS POINT FOR RHEIN
MAIN AIR BASE FOR ADVANCE DEPARTURE TO BERLIN.)

1200 DEPART WIESBADEN AIR BASE VIA MOTORCADE FOR
RHEIN MAIN AIR BASE.

1230 DEPART RHEIN MAIN AIR BASE ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE
FOR BERLIN.

NOTE: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WILL PROBABLY WISH
TO ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT TO BERLIN.

1330 ARRIVE BERLIN.

8. THE SCENARIO IN PARA 7 ABOVE HAS BEEN FORWARDED
TO EUCOM FOR REVIEW, AND EUCOM'S COMMENTS AND PROPOSED
ALTERNATIVE WERE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON IN USCINCEUR
111446Z MAY 78 (REPEATED TO THE DEPARTMENT AS BONN
8805). WASHINGTON WILL WISH TO CONSIDER THE ABOVE
PROPOSAL IN THE LIGHT OF EUCOM'S COUNTERPROPOSAL.
STOESSEL

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, ROBINSON.

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